

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

Claims 1-20 are pending. No claims are amended.

The Specification is amended. Support for this amendment is provided in the originally submitted Figure 6.

No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

**II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112 AND §103(a)**

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1-14 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,349,303 to Saito et al. (hereinafter, merely "Saito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,124,164 to Chemtob (hereinafter, merely "Chemtob") and in further view

of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0023430 to Srinivasan (hereinafter, merely "Srinivasan").

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito, Chemtob, Srinivasan, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,356 to Suzuki, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Suzuki").

### III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

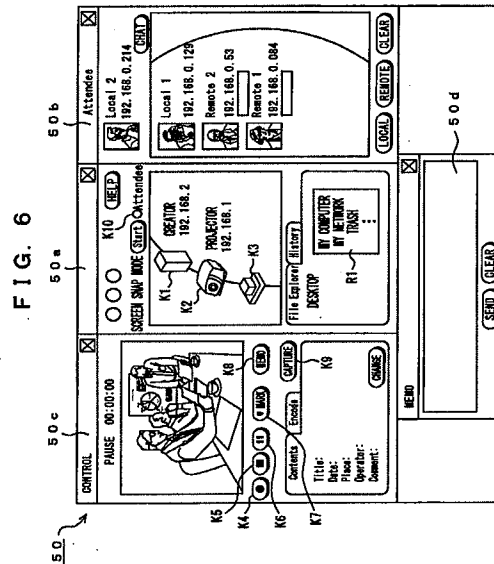
#### A. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action stated that the claim language "distance information of attendees" is new matter and lacks support in the Specification. Applicants respectfully traverse. The Specification supports this feature and Applicants have amended the Specification to include prose describing the distance information feature shown in originally submitted Figure 6. The amended Specification complies with the written description requirement and no new matter has been introduced.

Applicants reproduce Figure 6 of the Specification below. As shown in Figure 6, element 50b, an attendee may be local, for example, "Local 1", "Local 2", or remote, for example, "Remote 1" "Remote 2". As shown in Figure 6, Local attendee "Local 2" has photographic data and numeric data "192.168.0.214"; Local attendee "Local 1" has photographic data and numeric data "192.168.0.219"; Remote attendee "Remote 2" has photographic data and numeric data "192.168.0.53"; Remote attendee "Remote 1" has photographic data and numeric data "192.168.0.084". Thus each attendee has distance information since each attendee is identified as "local" or "remote" and has a numeric identifier specific to the attendees' location, which identifies a distance of the attendee.

Furthermore, Figure 6 shows “Remote” and “Local” buttons, which identify a distance of the attendee. Thus, Figure 6 supports the claim language of “distance information of attendees” as recited in the claims.

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B. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A network-information-processing system comprising:

...where the GUI function of the information-processing apparatus that becomes the clerk displays face of attendees, **distance information of attendees**, IP address, icons of at least the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus, and connections between the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus.” (Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit Saito, Chemtob, Srinivasan, and Suzuki, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing is found that teaches where the GUI function of the information-processing apparatus that becomes the clerk displays face of attendees, distance information of attendees, IP address, icons of at least the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus, and connections between the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus, as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action (see page 15) does not examine the above-identified feature of claim 1 due to a lack of support in the Specification. The amended Specification provides the support for the above-identified features of claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claim 12 is also patentable.

#### **IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS**

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken

as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

**CONCLUSION**

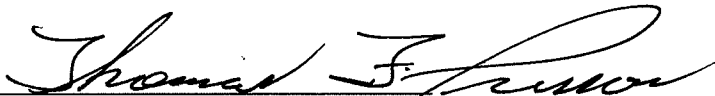
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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